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3. — *An Account of the Magnetic Observations made at the Observatory of Harvard University, Cambridge.* By JOSEPH LOVERING, Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and W. CRANCH BOND, Astronomical Observer of the College. Communicated by JOSEPH LOVERING, A. M. [Memoirs of the American Academy.] 4to. pp. 84.

THE progress of practical astronomy in this country is plainly evinced by the sudden growth of its observatories, of which until very lately it was entirely destitute. It can already boast of many thorough and persevering observers, as Bache and Walker of Philadelphia, Bartlett of West Point,* Loomis of the Western Reserve College, Bondler and Paine of the Massachusetts Survey, Graham of the army, Wilkes of the navy, and others, all of whom deserve higher praise than such a passing notice as the present. To this scientific advance, the University of Cambridge should contribute powerful aid, and we rejoice to find her Observatory so well appointed, and in such active and successful operation. The numerous stated duties of the Hollis Professor and Lowell Lecturer rendered it impossible for him to devote much time to the nice details of practical astronomy, and the University was therefore compelled to look around her for some one to be associated with him in the charge of the Observatory, and may be warmly congratulated upon having secured the services of so distinguished an observer as Mr. Bond. This gentleman has been employed by the general government to observe in connexion with the Exploring Expedition, which he had done in a small observatory of his own, where it was his chief delight and happiness to watch the heavens ; and few scientific men bring to the cause so much of enthusiasm and energy, so much of the self-sacrificing earnestness requisite to the advancement of all great ends.

Professor Lovering has given to the public, in the work before us, a well-digested account of the general system of magnetic observations, and particularly of those in Cambridge since their commencement. His comparison of the thermometric and magnetic curves is interesting, and suggests much speculation, which we think will sooner or later prove of fundamental value in explaining the phenomena of terrestrial

* We are glad to learn that the observatory at West Point is completed, and believe, that, under the control of the accomplished officers of the school, it will, as the leading observatory of the country, add to the reputation of that celebrated institution, and show itself worthy of the most liberal patronage of government.

magnetism. The labors of these gentlemen and the results at which they have arrived are highly creditable both to their industry and ability, and we confidently hope that the aid required for the furtherance of objects so important to science will be generously extended. A greater number of instruments as well as more observers, are necessary to the perfection of the plan, and although some public-spirited individuals have already contributed liberally in its behalf, the funds are yet quite insufficient.

4. — *Selections from the Poetical Literature of the West.* Cincinnati: U. P. James. 1841. 12mo. pp. 264.

OUR fellow-citizens of the West have found time, in the midst of the labors attending the settlement of a new country, to do not a little towards increasing the stores of American poetry. This neatly printed volume is a very valuable work, containing as it does, specimens from all the principal poetical writers of that great and growing region. Some of the names in the table of contents prefixed to this volume can hardly be said to belong to the West. Ephraim Peabody, for example, was an inhabitant of Cincinnati only a short time. He is a New England man, by birth and education, and now by residence. He has shown powers, both as a beautiful poet and a brilliant prose-writer, that bid fair to carry his fame far beyond all local boundary lines, and to place his name high on the list of great national writers. Still, it was a very proper thing for the editor, to select from such pieces of Mr. Peabody as were written while he was a citizen of the West, or were suggested by Western subjects, or the associations with his Western life. Several other writers whose works have furnished materials for this volume, were born on the eastern side of the mountains. We should therefore, naturally expect but little in the literary style or tone of feeling, to mark the greater part of these productions, as peculiarly the offspring of Western genius. But here we should find ourselves somewhat mistaken. These pieces are most of them redolent of the Western soil. They bear unquestionable marks, not merely of Western intellect, but of Western lands. The richness and grandeur of Western scenery make a strong and peculiar impression upon the mind of the emigrant, when he is first brought under their influences. They work a change in his intellectual being, modifying all his ways of thinking, and coloring all his expressions. If he becomes a writer, he becomes a very different one from what he would have been had he remained at home. In short,